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# IMPACT OF ARTC TO SDSA

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## 1 Introduction

Southern Districts Softball Association is the main preferred hirer & sports community user group of the 12 softball diamonds at Jacqui Osmond Softball Centre at Warwick Farm. Southern Districts Softball Association has utilised these grounds and facilities for more than 35 years & provided the local area & community the sport of softball for more than 50 years.

Our grounds will be directly and detrimentally effected by all 7 stages of the ARTC project affecting our competitions and the ability to host tournaments and gala days, which will all have a financial impact on our association over the course of the development. This financial impact will impede the associations ability to provide ongoing maintenance and development of our facilities.

## 2 Summary of Submission

This proposal is requesting the consideration of the following to assist our association to continue to grow and improve during the development period.

1. Improvement to the access road that runs along the length of the train tracks.
2. Request for the installation of lights to enable us to play night games to make up for the loss of 3 diamonds during this period.
3. Access to the double gates at the end of Sappho Road, or the installation of additional gates to allow for the continued maintenance of the grounds by Liverpool Council and our vendor deliveries.
4. Additional Trees along the Train line to provide shade for our members.
5. Reinstatement and reconfiguration of the diamonds once project has been completed and the introduction of an Indoor training facility to compensate for the loss of one diamond on a permanent basis.

## 3 Details of the submission

As listed in the summary section above, the below sections provide additional information of each of our requests.

### 3.1 Improvements to access Road

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Our grounds will be directly and detrimentally effected by all 7 stages of the ARTC project, affecting our competitions, ability to host tournaments and gala days, which will all have a financial impact on our association over the course of the development. This financial impact will impede the associations ability to provide ongoing maintenance and development of our facilities.

### 3.2 Request for additional lighting

The current ARTC proposal indicates we will be losing the use of three of our diamonds for the duration of the project (approx. 2 years or more), resulting in our Association and its members being greatly disadvantaged due to the need to restructure our summer competition games schedule.

The Association will need to limit the number of teams we can accommodate for our masters (senior) tournaments and gala days we host. The reduced number of diamonds will also inhibit our ability to host NSW State Championships, International travelling teams from NZ and Canada during these years.

Consequently, we would need to reschedule games with the consideration of holding night games so that we reduce the impact to members, this is not possible at present as we don't have sufficient & approved game quality lighting. In order to do this, we will need to have more light towers installed at our diamonds to enable us to play competition games at night safely. These would need to be installed prior to the commencement of the ARTC.

### 3.3 Access to Sappho Road

When the ARTC install the staging area covering diamonds 3, 4 and 5 they will be taking the gate at the end of Sappho Road (near Peter Warren holding yard) for access to the staging area.

The Association & Council will need access to the fields via Sappho Road for our delivery companies (e.g. Coke) & for their tractor mowers because large vehicles cannot access the fields under the railway line due to height of the bridges. This will either mean a second double entry gate needs to be installed or the entry to the fields will still need to be accessible to us for our deliveries and to the council for their mowing crews.

### 3.4 Shade and Planting of Trees along the train tracks

When the last upgrade of freight lines occurred a lot of trees were removed from the diamonds along the railway line, this caused a significant decrease & loss of shade at those diamonds which is a major concern for the Association.

We would request that ARTC make a concerted effort to A: Not remove any trees that don't have to be and B: that you replace a sufficient number of trees at these diamonds to provide adequate shade for the Association & our community members. We also wish to ensure that as discussed with the ARTC project people that a hill/slope is built along the railway line side of the diamonds so we can use it for seating for the community members for games. Trees could be planted along this area to provide adequate shade.

### 3.5 Reconfiguration of the Diamond and request for an indoor training facility

Once the upgrade to the freight lines are completed the 3 softball diamonds along the railway line will need to be reinstated and the current configuration of these 3 diamonds will not be viable.

Based on the information that has been provided to date, we have identified that we will lose too much land to be able to put all three diamonds back in place.

Diamond 5 will be reduced in size considerably, which will make it too small to fit back into the available space without creating a safety risk for other diamonds. Diamonds 3 and 4 will need to be re-aligned.

With the loss of Diamond 5 we would like to request that ARTC build an enclosed indoor practice facility on the existing diamond 5 land site. This would allow the Association to provide wet weather and night time training facilities to our representative teams, Clubs and our members to help compensate the Association & all our members and the community for the loss of three diamonds for the proposed 2 years of the project and for the permanent loss of 1 diamond.

## 4 Conclusion

We understand and support the ARTC freight line project. However, as a non-profit community sporting organisation our members, the Association, our sport and the community will be significantly disadvantaged during the lengthy project period.

We wish ARTC to consider our requests above for additional Light towers to be installed prior to the commencement of the project and an indoor facility to be built at the completion of the project to compensate the Association and its members for the significant disruption to our venue over this time.